THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 189 April/May 2021

Swavesey Camera Club

Annual Photographic Exhibition

Our Annual Exhibition has been an established event in the Swavesey calendar for years. It is an important opportunity for club members to demonstrate our photographic vision and skills to the public. Unfortunately we could not hold the 2020 exhibition last April because of the Covid lockdown. Given the continuing uncertainty over public gatherings as we move towards spring, we have decided that we will be holding our 2021 Photographic Exhibition online. Participation by all club members is encouraged and we will have a diverse and fascinating display of digital photographs, AV presentations and images that have scored highly in competition in club and external competitions.

Each year we host an Open Photographic Competition within our Annual Exhibition. Our aim is to encourage photography amongst everyone in the local community. The Competition is open to all amateur photographers. Prizes will be awarded in three categories; junior school age, senior school age and adults (see website below for further details).

EDITORIAL

Maybe just maybe we are seeing a light at the end of this very long tunnel!

It will be good to be able to have events, activities, meetings again and in person not on Zoom or Teams - it is ok but nothing replaces human to human contact.

We do need to support our local businesses and organisations they have been working with impossible scenarios and let us hope they stay. Our fledgling orchard needs your help, see article in this issue, and by the time you get this issue a lot of the trees will be in bloom or showing signs of flowering.

It has been a very wet winter and we have seen flooding on the busway path also along the droves - we have also seen fly - tipping and rubbish in our ditches which is not helping the water escape so if you see any problems report them. If anyone is interested in the history of floods in this area then there is a further article in this issue about the 1947 ones but you may care to look up 1953 as well on the web.

Enjoy the better weather and take care

Deadline for the June/July issue is 20 April.

Editor

Cover Image - Magnolia by Edwin Parish
Inside Front Cover - Camera Club Exhibirion
Inside Back Cover - Daffodils by Edwin Parish
Back Cover - Bluebell in Papworth Wood by Simon Shaw

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Major Events List

No Major Events in this issue owing to Covid 19

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April		
Thursday 1	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Saturday 10	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins NOTE SATURDAY
Friday 16	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection NOTE FRIDAY
Thursday 22	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 29	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
May		
Friday 7	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins (NOTE FRIDAY)
Thursday 13	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 20	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 27	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection

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CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey Community Orchard

At the time of writing in mid February, the Orchard has taken on the appearance of a large boating pond with floating tree islands and doubling as a skating rink in the very cold spell in February. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the water levels will have receded naturally, or with the aid of pumps. We hope we have not lost any trees to the floods.

Since the Meridian article last autumn, we learnt we were not successful in our bid to the SCDC Zero Carbon grant. We had intended to use the funds to develop the pond, a hibernaculum and to create a new safer accessible entrance to the Orchard from the pavement on Station Road. SCDC received a huge number of very worthy applications but we were not selected this time.

We are not giving up on this plan and intend to apply to other grant awarding bodies soon. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining our group and taking on a fundraising role.

In addition, we now have funding for two benches from the SCDC Community Chest and plan to install them beside the orchard footpath in time for a summer stroll and sit down. At the same time, we will be creating a green picnic area. Thanks to **Matthew Homes Ltd.** for the round tables.

To help our precarious position of having limited funds to pay ongoing costs of maintenance and development of the Orchard, we are taking this opportunity to invite you to join **Friends of Swavesey Community Orchard.** Several villagers had indicated a wish to support the Community Orchard and establishing **Friends** is the most flexible means of achieving this objective. Our suggested contribution is £25 per family, however, in these difficult Covid-19 times, we would appreciate any level of contribution.

To contribute and for details.please contact Dave Mottram (Treasurer) at ;- swavco.treasurer@gmail.com

Appreciating the difficult environment in which many businesses are having to operate, we would also wish to include corporate sponsorship within this scheme where possible. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has ideas, offers or questions relating to this or any other orchard matter.

Many thanks to the Meridian for a generous donation of £100 to our funds.

If Covid rules allow us to do so, we are planning an on-site meeting on the evening of 3rd June to let everyone have an opportunity to join discussions on what we might do, as a Community, in the Orchard. We shall also take this opportunity for a quick AGM.

Glyn Jones
07977 907622 swavco.chairman@gmail.com

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Hale Road Allotments A soggy winter

According to records the combined months of December and January were the third wettest since records began. So as a consequence the allotment site got very wet but although there was surface water it didn't flood as it did in our first winter of 2012/3. This was due to the efforts put in to install a drainage system in the summers of 2013 and 2014. Drainage channels were dug out and perforated pipe laid before filling in the channels with rubble. The work was carried out by plot holders and the end result seems to be effective as this winter was wetter but the site drier. Walking on dug over plots was not to be recommended as my foot sunk in to ankle depth when I tried it. The plots won't have had much action over those months but hopefully by the end of March the site will have dried out and everyone will have started planting the early crops. Early potatoes, onions, shallots, carrots etc. will have been planted and many of us will have greenhouses and window sills full of trays of germinating seeds for those plants that will be set out in May when the risk of frost has passed.

Spring is a time when those brassicas that have been developing over winter start to produce. I've always had more success with spring cauliflowers than the summer varieties and purple sprouting is a crop I always look forward to. As well as the spring brassicas we will also be looking forward to harvesting the first crop of rhubarb which is already starting to sprout in February, this will be followed by asparagus which is a firm favourite but only available for about 6 weeks. We cannot know what the summer weather and pests will do to our crops but we all look forward to a productive season well aware that no two years are alike. It's the prospect of getting good and tasty crops that keep us going year after year and so anyone keen to join us, the waiting list is still running at 18-24 months. We have constantly been reviewing our Covid regulations in line with advice from the National Allotments Society and we are aware that unlike some activities in the village we have been able to carry on during the pandemic lockdowns. Allotment gardening has been regarded as both physically and mentally beneficial by the government for which we are grateful.

Russell, chairman

Swavesey Festival 100 Club

Three winners each month receive £60 or £30 or £15.
To take part in this popular competition phone
Gill Hurst 01954 200470. Latest winners are;

	£	January	February
First prize	60	Margaret Guest	Richard Fuller
Second prize	30	Richard Fuller	Gary Peet
Third prize	15	Natasha Karelina	Darren Unwin

WI News

The W I was hoping to meet in March, but events overtook us, new strains of the virus, new rules, so unfortunately, meetings have been put on hold. We have to be sensible, so for the foreseeable future, we can only get together remotely. Many of our members have been in Swavesey W I for a number of years, so will not let a pandemic stop us continuing the support, education and fun that W I members benefit from.

We are continuing to offer a quizzes, a book group, newsletters, and a monthly magazine with all the news from the federation. Many of us have taken the opportunity to try online courses from Denman at home, and the monthly W I Life magazine that comes through our door is full of recipes, crafts and stories from W I's around the country. Being a member of the W I means you are part of one of the longest standing womens' groups in the world. Set up in Canada in 1915, it encouraged rural women to help with the war effort. Now, we are helping with a different kind of war effort, but the same camaraderie exists, and when we can eventually meet, we will all share our stories over a cup of tea or a glass of wine. We hope new members will join us.

For more information please contact Linda 01954 201162
or Deirdre 01954 201162.

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An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

Floating Fences

Ferry Lagoon is one of our larger lakes and the one that many visitors walk around when coming to the reserve. With a large expanse of open water and good views from all sides, you are always guaranteed to see something when following the Ferry Lagoon trail. The north side of the lake is an area of grazed wet grassland containing ditches, shallow pools of water (scrapes) and a small island just off-shore between Ferry Mere and the main lake and is an important area for some of our target breeding species.

Many ducks and other waterbirds nest around the lake and ground nesting birds such as common tern, black-headed gull and waders including lapwing and oystercatcher make use of the wet grassland and island. These species make small piles of vegetation on the ground to nest on or often lay their eggs directly on the ground in slight depressions or in clumps of vegetation.

In order to give ground nesting birds the best chance to successfully fledge their young, we have been working to construct a new floating fence around the Ferry Mere island to protect it from ground predators, such as badgers and foxes. Both of these species have been known to swim across to islands to predate the birds nesting there and their chicks.

Anyone who has been up to the hide on Moore Lake will likely have seen the floating fence around one of the islands there. This consists of wire mesh panels, extending above and below the surface, connected to floating booms encircling the island. Installed in 2017, this fence has proved to be a success. Using the same design, but smaller diameter floatation and a lighter weight mesh, the new anti-predator fence should confer the same protection to the island on Ferry Mere as the existing one on Moore.

Wading birds tend to begin nesting in mid to late April and terns in May so we should soon be seeing them make use of the island.

Oystercatcher with chicks. The new *floating* fence will protect these and other species on Ferry Mere.
Photo credit: Richard Brooks (rspb-images.com)

Events

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk
Phone: 01954 233260

Visit **rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes**

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

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WHERE NEXT ?

In our last News we told you of our exciting Zoom meetings which we have been sharing with speakers and clubs many miles away. This time we can tell you of something even more ambitious as we are planning a meeting with a club from Newmarket, Ontario. Unfortunately, unless you have taken our advice to regularly check our website, you will have missed it, as it was on Saturday 27th Feb. at 4pm (their 11am), but we felt it worth a mention in case it happens again. At the time of writing this (early to meet our mag. deadline) we ourselves have no idea how successful this will be. Our members first thoughts were “Oh! My goodness, they'll upstage us with pictures of the Rockies”. until our more sober members reminded them that they are no nearer to the Rockies than we are to the Alps, and the wonders of Rome, never mind our own world-beating Cambridge, so we still hope to impress.

Many of you have been keeping up with the events advertised in our programme, which can only be confirmed nearer the time. So far we can invite you to 'Nature photography – Telling a story' by Adrian Davies on 15th April, then 'The Art of Metamorphosis' by Andrea Hargreaves on 29th April, a trip into Fantasy land. We are all looking forward to 20th May when our old favourites, Rusty and Barbie Lindsay, will show us more of their inventive and amusing work with 'Zoom in on R&B', they never disappoint us. The 'Lucky Dips' for which you will have to check the website are on 8th April and 6th May.

Of interest to our club members, on 1st April we have the Presentation of Trophies to last year's winners, when they will 'virtually' receive their well-deserved cups and shields. This year's competitions continue with the Monochrome Trophy on 22nd April, the Panel of Five on 13 May, (for this year only, as digital rather than printed images) and the Pairs Competition on 27th May.

We have started some extra activities, such as our occasional Critique meetings, when we can receive friendly, helpful and impartial advice on our photographs, and we are considering forming Interest groups just for the enjoyment of our favourite topics. So far suggestions include Macro, Nature and Travel/Landscape.

An important reminder:
This year our Annual Exhibition will be on line. You will be able to view members' photographs, competition winners and Audiovisual shows, from 10th April until 24th. Please remember our Open Competition , (Adults and Children, check the website for details). Please send your entries in as soon as possible.

Please keep your eye on the website for any changes. You are `always welcome. Fee £4 per session.

Mo Hadfield
Swavesey Camera Club
www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk

MISCELLANY

IT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD

Jottings of being sixteen to nineteen years old alone in the West End of London 1963 to 1966

Having to leave the Isle of Wight in order to find work I found myself at just sixteen living in a YWCA in the West End.

Our evening meal usually comprised “celery soup”, we rarely found any meat. We lived in tiny dark booths in dormitories under noisy building work of the soon to be Post Office Tower. The warden would pour cold water from her window on any courting couple saying goodnight on the front step.

I firstly studied interior design at St Martins School of Art. Working at Heals in Tottenham Court Road. I visited the most amazing homes belonging to the rich and powerful. In one, only the colour white was allowed. I sat on the pure white sofa with my feet in the pure white shag pile carpet with a cup of tea, absolutely petrified that I would spill a drop.

Days off were spent feeling incredibly safe walking the streets of Soho and spending hours visiting the main museums. My favourite walks were in the parks and across Charing Cross bridge which was very noisy and shook when trains would pass. Coming from the I.O.W. I found this very exciting. One day Top of the Pops cameras followed me walking in Oxford St. and when I popped up on the show I screamed with delight.

I became sick of celery soup and moved into a room in an old lady’s house. I was then burgled and had to spend days cleaning off finger printing dust left by the police. I also spent days (and days) persuading a very nice welsh police officer, who kept arriving “to update” me, that I already had a boyfriend!

Fed up with being poor I left college and joined the bank. Which was very well paid at the time. I was in a very famous branch because it was understood that the manager had turned down a very well-known pop star for a loan that he had needed when he was starting out. He had later understandably taken his account away.

I was the first female cashier there, and this caused much comment from the customers, not all complimentary. It was seen purely as a man’s job at the time. So, the manager made me cut my long blond hair very short so that I would “look more like a man”.

I discovered bank robberies here, which seemed an almost daily London occurrence. One day the police had word that we were to be raided and

occupied our premises in order to be there when they came. I had an officer right by my feet. The criminals raided the bank next door. You should have seen the officers move when the alarm went off! Mine went over the counter.

We had lots of money in our tills on pay days as people would bring in their wages cheques and cash them. I ended up on number one till and so held the money store for the other four. This was a serious amount of money. I was told that if we were raided the criminals would go for the number one till and that I was to stand back and let them take the money. The counters were completely open and had no barriers at all nor were there any security guards.

The highlight of any day though was seeing cheques belonging to the Beatles pass through and we would, being silly girls, gasp and hold them to our hearts.

I heard about drugs for the first time at this branch because one bank girl always seemed to be on “another planet”. She was called “Dozy Daisy”. I was informed that she was “on drugs” but I had no real idea as to what that meant.

The saddest experience though was seeing many of our lovely customers who were receiving payments from Germany, still showing their concentration camp tattoos. I found this heart rending. Nothing I felt could compensate them for how they had suffered at the hands of the Germans.

Yes it was a very different world.

Polly

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Where I Grew Up. Part 2 – Mainly about my Grandad

My Grandad managed the Gravel Bank pumping station at Tilney Fen End, in the middle of the Fens between Wisbech and Kings Lynn. The water was moved up from the Forty Foot Drain and Rand's Drain into the Smeeth Lode which took it on to the river Great Ouse through Wiggenhall St Germans pumping engine and sluice.

When he started work as the engine driver his wage, I think, was a pound a week, with some extras. Anyway, he worked his way up and when I knew him, he was the Drainage Engineer for the Marshland District. He used to drink Camp Coffee and I never remember seeing him without his pipe in his mouth – two ounces a day of Hearts of Oak tobacco. It did for him in the end, he died from mouth cancer.

I mentioned extras, around the bungalow was about a couple of acres on which he had some fruit trees and bushes and also some veg. I remember he always seemed to do well with his onion crop. He kept pigs, two cows and some chickens and killed a pig now and again. The pig would be walked to the side of the boiling outdoor copper where it was killed and the bristles scalded off. Mother took me into the house before the deadly deed was done. Grandad had a freezer locker at Wisbech where surplus meat was stored. I seem to remember it costing £5 a year to rent.

Grandad also had eel traps and the catch was stored in a floating, heavily tarred box with holes in it until there were sufficient to send off to London by train from Magdalen Road Station. I sometimes cycled from Wisbech, perhaps with a friend, to do some fishing in the pumping engine outlet channel which accessed the Smeeth Lode. The pumping station end of the channel was concreted round to prevent erosion of the bank through the force of the pumped water. One day when I arrived, I had a job to take in what I saw. On two sides, about six inches high, was a mass of baby eels (elvers or glass eels) trying to climb the wall. There must have been thousands upon thousands. They would have taken about three years swimming the Gulf Stream all the way across the Atlantic from the Sargasso Sea near the Bahamas, where they were born, then made their way up the Great Ouse and into the Smeeth Lode when the St Germans sluice was open and they were finally trying to reach waters with plenty of silt and mud at the bottom. Something that has always amazed me.

We started married life in March when I joined the Isle of Ely Constabulary, later all joined up to become Cambridgeshire. We then moved to Sutton where I was the village policeman and then our next move was to Wisbech when I became a dog handler. I later trained my Alsatian, when he was six, to become the first drug dog in Cambs. During the time at Wisbech we ran a small part time commercial enterprise growing chrysanthemums. I would grow about 12.000 plants, some in a 120ft x 16ft tunnel to catch the early market. We would send up to 60 cases twice a week to Birmingham Market. We were always proud that most of our flowers were sold on repeat orders as the quality was consistent. When I was away on a training course and my wife had three children to look after, pack flowers and then go out and cut again she developed an allergy to chrysanthemums and we had to stop because it was quite severe. So, we switched to raspberries and would pick up to 4 tons a year, employing about 15 pickers for a few weeks. Most would go to Bradford Market with a fair quantity to a local freezer for sale to France for cake decorating.

The pumping station was later turned into a museum when the pumping became automated. My wife and I went along one day and it all seemed so much smaller than I remembered, but all the brass still gleamed as it used to. There hanging on the wall in the outer part was Grandad's hay knife. He used to cut some of the banks between two water courses and the hay would be put into a small rick which was used to feed the two house cows. Home-made butter – happy days!

David Carrington, Whitton Close

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The Swavesey Cemetery Allotments

It seems that from the outset in 1869 it was the intention of the Trustees of the Cemetery to try and offset some of initial outlay in purchasing the Hale Field Close by leasing land not required for burials. However it was not until 1902 that it is recorded that “garden plots as far as possible be let to non-conformists and Sunday observers”. Soon after this Mr. Crisp was appointed “to let the gardens” and take the rents.

It is not until 1932 that we find income from the allotments being recorded. The annual charge then was seven shillings. There could have been up to sixteen plots around that time which would have meant all the land beyond the Chapel on the north side was being cultivated.

Demand for allotments has fluctuated over the years. It decreased during the 1960s to 1980s but from then until the Hale Road site opened there was a long waiting list. After this it became quite difficult to find tenants and some of the plots were sadly neglected. The trustees decided to bring mains water on to the site, which was a huge improvement as the very light soil in the Cemetery dries out very quickly.

However the arrival of Covid 19 has changed the situation again and demand has increased to such an extent that a waiting list has been reintroduced. Here are a few comments from today’s tenants.

Kim writes: - What I love most is that the rules are simple and there are no weed controls,therefore there is a harmonious blend of different styles of running one’s plot.There is also no pressure that one might do wrong which makes everything very relaxing.

I also love that the ground is being used to produce food whilst it is not required as a cemetery; this in my mind is an ingenious use of such space for everybody involved, mourners as well as gardeners.

The allotment has provided an extension of my outdoors space during the dark days of the national pandemic and offered an opportunity to learn to know people from the village that I have never met before.

And, last but not least, it has provided contributions to many meals to me and the family, bringing pleasure during daily checks of the precious millimetres the crop gained since the previous day to finally be eaten.

Thank you for letting me have an allotment, it is much appreciated.

Joy writes: - *”I decided to apply for an allotment a few years before retirement, as I was aware there is a need to have activity to live around after work disappears. My attentiveness has waxed and waned, largely as a result of life events, but I am keen to keep it on. I’m in the process of thinking about a reorganisation largely because I don’t have other people to feed, therefore, one courgette plant a year is enough! I moved most of my herbs to the allotment because it is sunny and well drained near the path, and have planted perennial flowers eg, Dutch Iris, alliums and gladioli. I have acquired a small fig species, and intend to experiment with more perennial species and top fruit.*

The allotment is free of bureaucracy, basically cultivate your patch, pay your rent, have the occasional bonfire and you will not be bothered overly. It is a quiet patch in a beautiful location. I like the thought of my family being buried nearby. The cemetery is one of the few places largely unchanged since the 19c”.

Marion has divided her allotment into smaller, manageable plots, separated by narrow grass paths. This makes looking after it much less daunting and some jobs can be done without treading the soil. She enjoys the quiet, peaceful environment and believes tending the allotment is good for health and wellbeing.

Agricultural Land to Let

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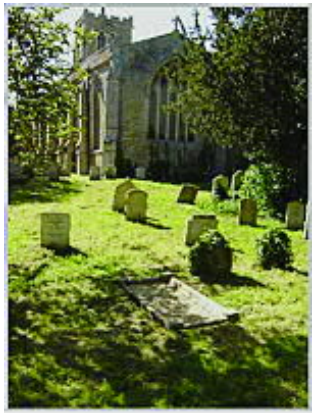
Initial enquiries to Church & Town Lands Charity, Over, please email ctlcharity@gmail.com

Who Was Clara Culpin?



The name CULPIN is unusual, its origin is obscure and, there is a possible Huguenot link.

Inside the small pavement gate, opposite the Manor House at St. Andrew's church is the grave of Clara Culpin, who died in 1944. She was my grandmother. When I last visited Swavesey, her grave was rather overgrown!

Clara was born in 1860 in Marylebone, the third daughter of Henry Walker, a baker, born about 1829 in Nottinghamshire, and Elizabeth Sutton, born in the 1830s in Lancashire. They had married in 1850 at St. Anne's Soho.

Clara's father was to die before she was ten years old and her mother, now a widow, was to marry a James Wilson in 1870 in Marylebone. The family moved to Hackney and, by 1881, on to Bromley-by-Bow.

Clara married a Thomas Culpin, born in Deptford in 1882 at Walthamstow, but his family were originally from Castor, in the Peterborough area. He was an engine driver (mechanic) living at the East London Waterworks in Chingford. They were to have six children, Minnie (1883), Thomas (1887), Albert (1890), Stanley (1894), Frederick (1897) and Dorothy, my mother (1905).

World War 1 was to be devastating to the family, especially Clara, who was to suffer much pain. All four sons volunteered. Albert died three days after being wounded at the Battle of Loos in 1915. Thomas was to lose a leg, to be severely wounded in the other and to be gassed. In 1926 he died of respiratory problems back home. After the war was over, Fred spent the rest of his life with a bullet lodged in a lung close to his heart but survived until the 1960s. Stanley survived the War but died of cancer in the 1940s.

If this was not enough Thomas, Clara's husband, had an accident at work, when there was a fire at the pumping station and he fell through a floor seriously injuring his legs. He died in the 1920s.

On top of all this, in 1916, her stepfather committed suicide in Epping Forest.

World War 2 with the blitz on London forcing the family to leave for Swavesey, Clara's concern was for her two grandsons. One was fighting the Japanese in Burma and the other was a paratrooper, who survived the landings at Arnhem. However, she was to die before knowing both would return home safely.

Researching Clara's family history, I found the largest concentration of Culpins, which could be counted in hundreds, was in the Peterborough area, from where the family of her father originated. Probably due to family financial problems, the family dispersed.

Coming to Swavesey as evacuees from Chingford, on the Essex border with London in 1940, in my recent research in the 1939 Register, it has shown, there was a Culpin family already living in School Lane, Swavesey. Millice Culpin and his family had been there since before the turn of the 20th century. In the 1901 census his occupation was given as a farm foreman, but by the 1911 census he was listed as a blacksmith, living in Market Street. I believe his forge was in the High Street, opposite the Rising Sun pub, which closed in 1964. I remember that in 1940 there was a blacksmith, George Burling in Boxworth End! We lived almost opposite Ramper Road where my father had rented a large property called Stanton View, at number 10 Boxworth End.

Further research showed a James Culpin and family in The Street, Fen Drayton. He was also a blacksmith. There was another Culpin family in St. Ives in East Street. His occupation was a grocer and provisions merchant.

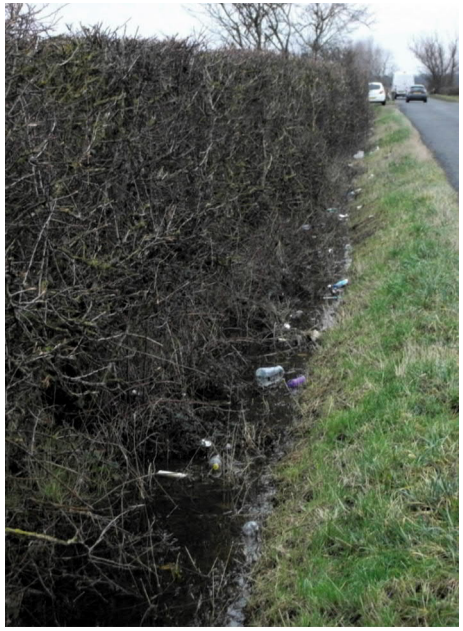
Are there still any members of these families in the Swavesey area? I guess further research would show these three families to be closely related to each other, and even further research around the turn of the 19th century in the Peterborough area, might show a connection between these families and my grandmother, Clara.

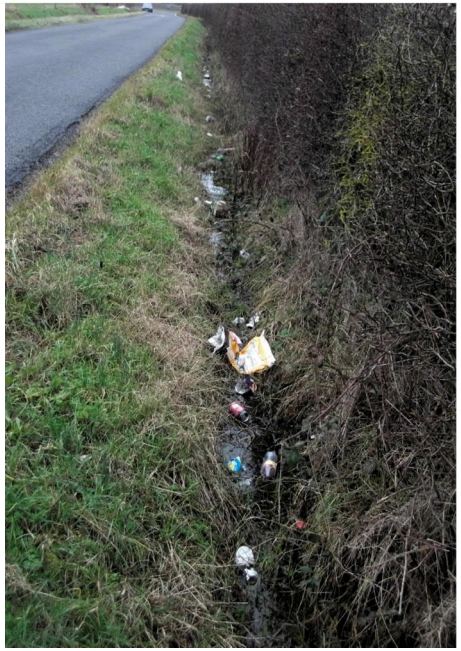
The questions are did we have unknown relatives when we came to Swavesey in 1940? Are there relatives still in the area?

Dave Branchflower (Swavesey 1940 - 46)

Selwyn is in contact with Dave B, born in March 1938 at Chingford, and now in Bishop's Stortford, so, please, if you have any info on local Culpins kindly let Selwyn know on 07731 585450 or selwyn.richardson1@gmail.com. Thank you.

What a load of Rubbish!





Can you guess where this is ?

Yes, it's 'in your back yard - Ramper Road - and not the local tip !

Normally when I am out for my daily lockdown exercise, I walk around the nature reserve and Guided Bus Way, but with all this flooding, I have had to move to higher ground and so started walking along Ramper Road, Ufton's Drove and Boxworth End.

What I saw along Ramper Road shocked me to the core - ditches and erges covered in rubbish – beer cans / bottles, wine bottles, plastic drinks bottles, soft drinks cans, takeaway coffee cups, crisp bags & sweet wrappers.

How did it get here? Why is it here? Doesn't anyone take a pride in their local environment anymore ?

We have all seen pictures on the news of rubbish strewn beauty spots last summer, but I didn't expect to find the same here.

I can only assume this all came out of passing vehicles; it's difficult to understand someone's reason for throwing rubbish out of the window, when they could have taken it home & put it in their wheelie bin.

After being so ashamed by this, and as one of the village litter pickers, I started my quest to do something about it. 2 months on and 19 black sacks later I have made some inroads into clearing up Ramper Road from the 30 sign to Ufton's Drove, but there's still plenty to do.

THIS IS FLY TIPPING.

Your actions don't just trash the local environment, they block drainage ditches, increase the risk of flooding, and cause suffering to wild life and farm animals.

Please take a pride in your local environment and **TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME**.

A concerned resident.

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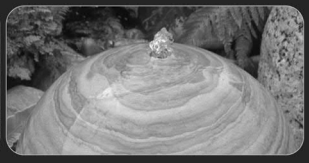

FARMING IN SWAVESEY (Part 5 of 5)

THE OPEN FIELDS SYSTEM

In Medieval times Swavesey had three very large fields which had no fences; Longstanton Field, Lolworth Field and Fen Drayton Field. Two fields grew crops each year and the third was left fallow but grazed by cattle.

Each field was divided into strips separated by grass. To ensure good and poor quality land was shared equally, each villager had 2 or 3 strips in each area. This also made it easier to sow one crop across one area. When it was time to plough each man brought what he could, such as an ox.

CROPS

Crops grown at this time , were wheat, barley, rye, oats, peas, beans and dredge which is a mixture of barley, oats and mixed corn, plus maslin a mixture of wheat and rye.

ANIMALS

These were cows, bulls, oxen, boars, sheep and poultry. Cows did most of the heavy work like pulling carts and ploughs. Oxen were also used. The tenant of every hide had the right to graze his animals on common land. Thus, in Swavesey animals could graze on Mow Fen, Middle Fen, Mare Fen and Cow Fen. In autumn pigs were let out into the woods to eat acorns which were an important source of food. Many animals had to be slaughtered in late autumn because there was not enough grain or hay to feed them through the winter. The butchered meat would be smoked or put into barrels of salt to preserve it for some months.

In 1285 the Prior of Swavesey, who owned one hide in Fen Drayton, grazed 120 cattle and 600 sheep on the common land. A hide here equalled 140 acres.

WORK ON THE ZOUCHE MANOR

1275 – In 1275 there were 63 villeins in the manor. It was the custom for 31 villeins to work for the Lord of the Manor one year and the other 32 the next year and so on. Rent of 8 pence was paid when working for the lord and 2 shillings when not working for him.

JOBS

There were various jobs to be done on the Manor – ploughman, shepherd, cowman, swineherd, miller (there is a note of a mill being here in 1172), daye in charge of the dairy and poultry, warrener to do with rabbits and sowing which was done by broadcasting the seed. Sowing was a specialised job because it was important that the seed was scattered evenly. These jobs were done instead of working on the land, except for ploughing and harvesting when everyone helped.

FISHERIES, PEAT AND RUSHES

The villagers had to pay the Lord of the Manor to fish in the river, paid “for a lake”, 3 pence to 8 pence each. They could also harvest peat turves to burn for heating and rushes for thatching from the Fen, but they were limited in the amount they could take.

ILLNESS

If a tenant was ill, he would be excused work, sometimes for a month or longer,

it all depended on the lord’s charity.

Only on Crowland manors was provision made for the aged and infirm. Usually when a villein became incapable of working he gave up his holding.

WIDOWS

Widows retained their husband’s holding as “free bench”.

HARVEST

Harvest was the busiest time of the year beginning on Lammas Day (August 1st) and continuing until Michaelmas (September 29th). There were additional workers, including bond tenants. The wife was excused if she provided food for the family at work. Ample meals could also be provided, consisting of bread, meat or fish, cheese and ale.

The corn was cut with sickles and threshed with flails. It was stored in the Lord of the Manor’s barns under the direction of the Granger who often appears in the lists of hired manorial servants.

Corn had to be ground in the de la Zouche mill here in Swavesey.

Hay was gathered from the grazing fields. These fields were Goldelow Meadow, Great Green Fen, Hale Field, Mill Field, Mill Fen, Cow Fen and Whitton Meadow. The man in charge was called the Hayward.

1277 – 1278 and in 1340 prolonged droughts throughout Cambridgeshire devastated most of the Lent cereals, peas and beans in many parishes. As a result hundreds of peasants were threatened with starvation. Life was very hard for Swavesey residents throughout the Medieval period.

In the mid 14th century agricultural conditions were bad. Tax was excessive and many acres of land were left untilled because tenant farmers were ruined by tax. Towards the end of this century the Lord of the Manor became little more than a tax collector.

A POINT OF INTEREST = HOW TO FIND THE MONEY TO EQUIP AN ARMY IN 1316 = A LEVY

The defeat of England by the Scots at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 was a sore point, a national disgrace and injured national pride so a national levy or tax was ordered, each town paying to equip one soldier and pay him for 60 days service.

At an inquisition in Cambridge on August 9th 1316 Swavesey was ordered to pay 32 shillings. The following equipment was bought:-

1 aketon – a padded woollen garment covering the body from neck to knees and was a protection against daggers and cold.

1.bassinet – a basin shaped metal helmet.

1.bow - a long bow, 6 feet long with strings of hemp or silk.

1.knife – 2 pence.

This is the last article on Medieval Swavesey. I hope you have found them interesting. I have enjoyed writing them.

Dorothy Bamber Gilbert.

Surrounded by Water – Almost

Part 3. The 1947 Floods. Repairing the Breach and Drying Out

In the darkness and bitter cold of a howling storm at just before midnight on Sunday 16 March 1947 a torrent of water hurtled down through a massive breach into Over Fen, six metres below. Already by Friday 14th the water level in the Great Ouse was very high and water was accumulating in the fens, so it was clear that a flood was coming. Farmers on low ground piled their belongings into whatever vehicles they could get. Chickens went into boxes and crates for the journey with animal feedstuffs packed beside them along with personal valuables while cattle and pigs were driven alongside towards higher ground. But they could not rescue the valuable potato crops which had been stored in field clamps since the previous October.

The water rushed out into Over Fen then south to Swavesey and east into Willingham Fen where it soon came up against the flood bank of the Old West River alongside the road between Willingham and Earith. From the early hours of Monday 17th gangs of workers and prisoners of war set about building a substantial wall of clay bags along the southern bank of the Old West River and by evening they were joined by hundreds of troops, mainly from the Royal Engineers. Even this enormous group of labourers, working continuously through the night, could not stop the rising tide and by midday on Tuesday it was clear they were going to fail so the retreat was sounded. The water broke through and hurtled in a fan shape all the way to Aldreth, Haddenham and Sutton, four miles distant, sweeping away straw stacks, potato clamps, outbuildings and even furniture from inside fenland houses which were flooded up to the eaves.

Four days after the breach occurred the flow of water through the gap was much abated. Engineers were already considering how the 50 metre wide gap could be closed and the novel idea was proposed that the quickest way would be to use a long row of heavy Neptune amphibious military vehicles which were effectively large DUKWs on tracks instead of wheels and weighing up to 18 tonnes unladen. One Neptune was rapidly obtained and driven out into the washland on the river side of the gap. It was clearly heavy enough to resist being dragged through the gap and sixteen were quickly allocated to the site. The plan was to drive the vehicles in a line through the water on the river side to form a wall in the shape of a rectangular box around the breach, then fill the breach with bags of clay. Tarpaulins were to be lowered from the Neptunes on the river side and held in place with sandbags to reduce the permeability of the wall of metal. This activity took place on Monday March 24, just a week after the breach occurred. There were some temporary setbacks through the day but by 7.30 that Monday evening, by the light of searchlights, the amphibians were in place and when the tarpaulins were lowered down over the tracks and weighted down the flow of water through the breach decreased. Repairing the bank using bags of clay went on all night with very good progress made by dawn. It took two more days and nights to completely finish the job. A thousand troops were involved in “Operation Neptune” over the three days and three nights, at the end of which the worst breach in the Fens had been repaired.

On Sunday 30 March, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester arrived at Bluntisham station and were taken under military escort to see where the breach had occurred

and to witness the devastation across the wide expanse of flood water as far as Sutton and Haddenham.

The breaches in the riverbanks were closed remarkably quickly. The next task was to lift all the floodwater from the Fens and pour it back into the rivers as soon as possible because fen soil is of very high quality, capable of growing large yields of a wide range of high-value crops and the country desperately needed home-grown food. On Friday 21 March, the Ministry of Agriculture contacted all bodies who might have large capacity pumps including the National Fire Service, the Admiralty, the Army, the Metropolitan Water Board, local authorities and private firms. By Monday 24 March, several large pumps were already arriving in the Fens and so were some of the more than a hundred firemen who volunteered to man them. Additionally, seventeen massive pumps arrived from Holland. Altogether about 260 large pumps were assembled. Areas of shallow flooding were cleared of water by the end of April, but It was the end of May before almost all of the water had been removed from all of the submerged fenland. The slowest restoration was in Haddenham Fen where the water was up to 5 metres deep in places and here the pumps were not removed until July.

The farmers and their families returned to their farms and earnestly set about repairing their homes and outbuildings. At the same time, they got on with late drilling and planting their crops as soon as the soil surface was dry enough. Although yields were modest, nearly all of the flooded land carried a crop that year.

Sixteen Neptunes were manoeuvred onto the washland on the river side to form a rigid box around the breach. Tarpaulins were let down the side of the amphibians over the tracks and weighted down with sandbags to help to hold back the water from the river then the gap in the bank was filled with bags of clay. After the bank was repaired the amphibians were recovered and removed.

For more dramatic pictures of the floods that help to illustrate this article, look at our website www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk and under “Feature Articles” click on The 1947 Floods. These were kindly supplied by John Shepperson BEM.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough age UK

Swavesey Community Warden Scheme

Are you aged 60 or over?
Would you like help to continue to live independently in your own home?
The Community Warden is able to offer assistance by providing a daily phone call (Mon-Fri) and support such as:

- **Making drinks and a light meal**
- **A home visit**
- **Collecting prescriptions**
- **Small items of shopping**
- **A listening ear**
- **Help with paperwork and making appointments**
- **Signposting to other services where appropriate**

If you are interested in this service and would like more information, please call Tracey Booth on **07436102736**

There is a **FREE** 2 week trail and then a small weekly fee afterwards if you wish to remain on the scheme.

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RHA CPA

Subsidised Community Lifelines for Swavesey residents

Swavesey Parish Council is subsidising a number of lifelines for Swavesey residents.

The Community Lifeline Service allows people, young and old to stay in their homes longer and live independently. It is run by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

If you live alone or someone in your family is sometimes left alone and may need to call for assistance, the Council's Lifeline team can help.

In an emergency, pressing a button - worn around your neck or on your wrist - connects you via a contact centre with family, friends, neighbours, or the emergency services.

For more information on how Lifelines work, please look at www.scamb.gov.uk/lifelines or contact us for a leaflet on:- 01954 713470.

How to apply for a subsidised lifeline alarm

If you are interested in a lifeline subsidised by Swavesey Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk, Linda Miller on 01954 202982 or 07458 302193, or email her on clerk@swavesey.org.uk to see if there are places available. This is operated strictly on a first come first served basis.

The Parish Council will pass your details to the Lifeline Service who will contact you with more information and an application form.

How to apply for a self-funded lifeline alarm

If there are no subsidised places currently available, the Parish Clerk will put you on a waiting list and contact you when a space becomes free. In the meantime, you can still apply and pay for your own lifeline through the Lifeline Service. When a subsidised place becomes free, the payments of your lifeline will be passed over to the Parish Council on the next quarterly bill.

How to apply for a lifeline if you live in the Thistle Green Sheltered Scheme

Please contact your Sheltered Scheme Warden on 01954 713468 or email alarm.calls@scambs.gov.uk.

The Community Lifeline Service costs £4.47 per week. This is payable every three months in advance by a £58.11 direct debit. The installation charge is £30.

You can learn more about Lifelines and apply online at:- www.scambs.go.uk/lifelines.

If you are interested in speaking with someone regarding the Lifeline Service, or would like an application form, please contact us on 01954 713470 or email lifelines@scambs.gov.uk.

"The Lifeline Service has enabled me to live comfortably and independently in my own home knowing that I can call on someone in an emergency"

Lifeline user living in Willingham.

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Information & updates on facebook page

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Out of hours (01954) 780442 -
call will automatically be diverted
Website:- www.mhmaple.co.uk/

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See our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk for the full and latest surgery newsletters. Ed

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SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Swavesey Primary School Early Years and Playwork Centre

Wraparound Care and Early Years Provision – Mon to Fri – term-time

Registration Fee £15 per family for using Breakfast and/or After School Club
Breakfast Club 7.30 am – 8.55 am
3+ year olds to Year 6 children: £6 per child per session
After School Club 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm
For Reception to Year 6 children: £10 per child, family rate £9 per child

Early Years 9.00 am to 3.00 pm (full day) or morning (9-12/1) or afternoon (12-3)
For 2 ½ year olds to 4 year olds
Places for funded children up to 30 hours per week
Charged sessions:-
3+ year olds £13 half-day and £26 full-day
2 year olds £15 half-day and £30 full-day
£4.50 for lunch hour (12-1)

For more information and to register:-
https://www.swavesey.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=EY+%26amp%3B+P&pid=59

Swavesey Playtimers

Tuesday 10-11.30am
In the back room of the Bethel Church, different craft activities, stories and themes each week. £2

Wednesday 10-12noon
At the Memorial Hall, singing with Sharon from 11.15am.
Family with one child, £3.
More than one child, £4.
Under 6 months. £2.

All children under 5 welcome to these term-time toddler groups. Find out what is going on from our Facebook group - "Swavesey playgroups".
A great chance to meet local parents.

Swavesey Music School

9am – 10am	Sing Up	choir	4yrs – 12yrs
10am – 11am	Rockin' Rhythms I	interactive theory lessons	4yrs – 7yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms II		8+yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms III		Grade 3+
NEW CLASS!	Rock School Rockets	guitars, drums	beginners
11am – 12pm	SMS Community Orchestra	instrumental ensemble	all levels; all ages
	Rock School	guitars, drums, vocals	9+yrs

Now in its 9th. Year!

Check out our new class: RS Rockets
Also, SMS Community Orchestra, open to all ages; adults, parents: why not pick up that instrument from youth and join us on a Saturday morning? Email for more information and to check availability.

£4 per session!

Swavesey Music School
Swavesey Village College
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Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day is held on 22nd February each year, the date being chosen as it is the birthday of both Robert Baden-Powell founder of the Scout and Guide movement, and his wife Olave who served as World Chief Guide. On this day we think of the 10,000 members of Girlguiding all around the world. As we were unable to join together as a district this year, each unit found out about Guiding in their chosen country and a little about the country itself as usual, but photos were sent to our District Commissioner who collated them all to share around all the units in the District. At the time of writing, we are also looking forward to a Virtual event organised by Girlguiding Cambs East County via Facebook.

Swavesey Rainbows found out about Sparks in Canada. We have lots in common, a very similar programme and lots of badges to earn. Their uniform is different though, each section has the same blue uniform, only identified by the colour of maple leaves on their necker! The girls located Canada on a map, found out about their flag, some Canadian animals, the Inuit who live in the frozen north of the county and the Innuksuk they use to mark the way in the white landscape. At their weekly meeting on Zoom, the girls made lanterns decorated with the trefoil, lit them with their battery tealights and we renewed our promises and thought about our Girlguiding sisters around the world.

Swavesey Brownies found out about Brownies of Senegal. They are called Jeanettes. They wear a green skirt with braces and a white blouse. The Brownies found Senegal on a map and labelled the neighbouring countries and Atlantic Ocean. They coloured the map in to resemble the Senegalese flag. They found out that the national animal of Senegal is the lion and the national flower is the baobab flower and they made a lion rosette and a model of the flower. They also made a mancala from an egg box. Playing this strategy game is a favourite pastime in Senegal. On World Thinking Day, at their usual meeting, the Brownies did activities from Stand Together for Peace, which is the WAGGGS theme this year. They renewed their Promises by candle light.

Swavesey Guides looked at Guides in Latvia. They are joined with Scouts and can earn badges across four themes of living outdoors, acquiring skills, travelling and doing a good job. There are less than 1,000 members. They made an origami Guide shirt and made a Latvian Promise card. Swavesey Guides found out about Latvia by asking and answering questions for which they were interested in the answers, sharing their findings on Zoom chat. They discovered that Latvia is famous for its pottery, so made a pottery item and glazed it using nail polish, glue and acrylic paint. Amber is also very famous, so they made some ‘Amber’ candy.

They celebrated World Thinking Day on 25 February by renewing their promise by candlelight after doing some activities about peace.

Swavesey Rangers celebrated World Thinking Day by doing several activities from the WAGGGS Stand Together for Peace activity pack. They considered how their abilities could be used for building peace, they looked at women who were actively trying to bring peace to the world, used art to bring people together and considered how the effects for every action ripples out across the world.

Adult helpers are always welcome, please sign up here if you are interested or would like to know more. www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/Rainbows and Brownies are full with waiting lists, sign your daughters up early for Rainbows, don’t wait until she is 5 and her friends have started! www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Scouts
1st Swavesey

Due to the whole of the country being in lockdown since December 2020, the weekly sessions of both Cubs and Scouts have only happened again online. But this has not stopped us from having lots of fun and doing new things.

Beavers: We are hoping to start running the Beaver Colony again from September 2021. To be able to start back up we will need young people and leaders, so if you would like to add your child/children onto the waiting list, or if you are interested in helping to run the Beavers then please send us an email at info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk and we will be in touch.

Cubs: The Cubs have been doing their Astronomer activity badge and have learnt all about the solar system and even had a virtual planetarium on one of the online sessions.

Scouts: At Scouts, we have been learning about the Swifts that visit the village and surrounding areas each Spring/Summer. They have even built their own nest boxes, which were kindly donated by the Over and Swavesey Swift Conservation Project which will hopefully be fitted in time for when the birds arrive in May.

Currently, both the Cubs and Scouts have a good number of young people attending the weekly sessions online. We cannot wait until things get better so we can return to face-to-face outdoor sessions.

If you feel that you would like to participate within the Scout group but are unsure how, then please do get in touch by emailing info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk and we will happily get back to you to discuss how you can help.

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News January/February 2021

MEETING WITH ANTHONY BROWNE MP

Our MP Anthony Browne attended the January meeting of the PC by Zoom.

The Parish Councillors raised concerns about:

The maintenance of local roads following the heavy traffic using the village during the construction of the new A14.

The problems arising from drainage, discussions related to planning issues both resulting from new developments in the Village and the wider implications of new developments at Cambourne and Northstowe (and possibly Bourne) which will bring additional water through Swavesey.

Councillors raised their concerns that the Government Planning White Paper should give proper consideration to the provision of affordable housing in new developments.

Mr Browne confirmed that he was in discussions with the County and District Council to decriminalise parking offences to allow them to employ traffic wardens to enforce parking in villages.

Mr Browne explained that he had regular meetings with the local councils and was pressing the importance of involving Parishes more directly. He is also raising the need to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with the increasing pressures arising from the high growth in South Cambridgeshire.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Highways maintenance by the Highways dept. is underway.

Following the recent flooding the PC is meeting with County and District concerning maintenance of the drainage in the village. There is an ongoing programme of jetting etc. underway. Potholes are being reported and meetings are planned with the Highways Department to check on progress. The work to resurface the footpath carried out in December in Boxworth End is showing signs of breaking up and ponding already. The PC has raised this problem and also the number of road signs left in the Village following completion of projects. The PC is to bid for two more mobile speed signs/traffic indicators for the village to help monitor and control speeding vehicles.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Swavesey Together Group continues to support those in need during the current COVID lockdown.

The PC is to respond to the consultation by The District Council to new council housing policies etc.

The search for new building sites in Swavesey to meet the demand in the district for the next draft local plan for SCDC has resulted in a number of proposals being put forward. The extent of the need depends upon the level of development planned for Cambridgeshire. This

COUNCIL NEWS

is still undetermined and the PC will make responses to Gtr Cambridge Planning during the various consultations for this.

DRAINAGE

Cllr Mr Wilderspin is working with the Middle Level Commissioners and continues to press

for action on major drainage works affecting the village.

These include the matters raised with Mr Browne concerning the major planning proposals and local meetings relating to our immediate village concerns.

VILLAGE MATTERS

The PC has set up a Steering Group to take forward the development of the new sports field between the Village College and the Matthew Homes development site, this will be linked to the adjacent proposed 3G sports pitch on the College site which the PC is supporting. The Group will be considering the appointment of a project manager to help deliver the project.

The PC has agreed to close off the route across the back of Market Street Green, which is not a public highway. This work is to be put in hand as the surface has been badly damaged by large vehicles and is now dangerous. The surface will be returned to grass.

The PC agreed to make a grant towards providing a covered cycle rack for the Village Hall.

Parish Council News Update, Swavesey Parish Council Chairman

For the second year running it looks as though we shall be unable to hold an Annual Parish Meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions and regulations however the PC continues to hold all its monthly meetings along with regular planning meetings virtually by Zoom. Members of the public are more than welcome to sit in and only have to notify Linda, our Clerk, in advance and they will be forwarded an ID & entry code to access the relevant meeting. The same regulations apply as if it were a real meeting in person, questions may be raised in advance and there is a 10 minute public open forum period at the start of the meeting for members of the public to raise comments on items on either the current or future agendas. Following this period members of the public will be muted & are not permitted to take part in the discussion though can of course sit in on the rest of the meeting. The dates & times of the meetings will be published on the PC website, along with its Face Book page and the notice boards within the Parish, plus of course all contact details are available here in the Meridian magazine.

It does seem at the moment that the Government is going ahead with the local May elections this year after having been forced to cancel them due to the original lockdown last year and the Memorial Hall has been notified as to the additional requirements for the provision as a polling station on Thursday 6th of May. Elections will be held for the Mayoral post of the combined authority of Cambridge and Peterborough, the new Police & Crime Commissioner in addition to all County Councillors. Don't ask me why the position of Police & Crime Commissioner should be made on a political basis, as it was purely an appointment when the position was invented, so I guess it is democracy in action!

Until the District's local plan was accepted & became active a couple of years ago we felt as if we were being inundated with planning applications as it was effectively "open season" for developers. This resulted in 3 relatively large developments being granted in the village having been rejected at local level but granted on appeal by the inspectorate based in Bristol, these were additional to the "in fill" minor builds. The village is now beginning to see the result of all this with the Bloor site on Fen Drayton Rd, and with the Matthew Homes site of 30 dwellings also already underway and the neighbouring Bushmead site of a further 70 dwellings about to commence, further chaos on either side of the Ramper Rd junction would seem to be inevitable. Unfortunately this will only exacerbate the ongoing traffic problems especially when the ever increasing construction traffic movement along Ramper Rd is taken into consideration. Although the Bloor construction traffic is officially barred from entering the village other than by Rose & Crown and/or Fen Drayton roads these 2 other sites have no other means of access other than from the Boxworth End/Middle Watch/ Ramper Road location.

The PC is conversant in pointing this problem out to the County Highways team in the hope that some form of at least temporary weight limit or alternative restriction can be imposed on other heavy goods traffic that constantly seems to be using the road through the village either as a "rat run" or diversion!. We have been asking for traffic figures but unfortunately the special traffic counters for Ramper Rd, inserted for Northstowe build information, ceased working in June **2018** and the only subsequent figures we have received are for June **2020**, most of which was in the first Covid lockdown period. When we requested these official counters to prove the need for traffic calming along Boxworth End & Ramper Rd we were advised that they could be provided but would cost the Parish something in excess of £8000!!. Given the proven amount of commuting traffic along these roads it is deemed to be absolutely certain that precautionary measures must be put in place.

When looking at the big picture one has to consider that there will now be a Northstowe phase 3B development which is to be located between the Busway and the land to the North of the existing entrance junction to phase 1 & Gravel Bridge Rd leading to Over Windmill, effectively where Ramper Rd & the existing Longstanton bypass join. No need to worry folks it is only another 1000 dwellings - almost the size of Swavesey, and the source of the Swavesey drain is actually located here so all the surface water will come our way before entering the river @ Webb's hole sluice. Water actually flows downhill but whatever you do don't tell a developer they will deny it or try prove it doesn't.

This brings us to the other constant topic of conversation which is of course FLOODING and the constant battle that we have with the authorities & statutory bodies in pointing out the threat that is constant in our Parish, which is not just due to the fact that the river Great Ouse constitutes a considerable section of our boundary and we take almost all the surface water from the boundaries with Over, Longstanton & bypass to Bar Hill, Lolworth, Boxworth, Conington & Fen Drayton along with the contents of the balancing ponds on the new A14 as well as those on the A1307, but in addition the foul water outflow from the Uttons Drove sewage treatment works. All this foul water flows down Uttons drain and joins forces with the water from the Swavesey drain flow before entering the river at Webb's Hole sluice gate which is located just before Overcote. When the gates of the sluice are closed due to high river levels the Environment Agency have installed a pump to extract water at a restricted rate, and Mere fen acts as a flood plain holding the excess water. One major issue we have here is that most of the river bank between the sluice and Covell's drain upstream is in fact some 3' below the design level and the impression we are getting is that the EA actually want the Parish's protective flood plain. Covell's drain being the boundary point between Swavesey & Fen Drayton Parishes. All the additional development in the village increases the speed of the flow of surface water down to the sluice gates.

Swavesey has its own Internal Drainage Board which is chaired by Keith Wilderspin who also sits on the PC and the IDB are in constant communication with the Middle Level river authority as well as the EA - local knowledge is essential and is in fact crucial in the protection of Swavesey when flooding matters arise.

As long ago as **2012** a planning condition was placed on the development of the "Cambourne 950" that would ensure the banks & *berm of the Uttons drain would be heightened & strengthened from the treatment works down to Webb's Hole sluice and here we are in 2021 still waiting for the final section of the work to be completed. Since then permission has been granted for the development of Northstowe phases 1 & 2 which will also send all the untreated effluent to the Uttons Drove works from some 6000 dwellings and currently the outline planning applications have been submitted for phase 3a on the Rampton/Oakington side of the new town together with the afore mentioned phase 3b for a combined total in excess of 5000 residential dwellings plus retail & associate services, primary schools etc etc. Needless to say all the untreated effluent will be pumped through to Uttons Drove works and the subsequent treated water will say hello Swavesey on its way to Webb's hole sluice.

As if this is not enough, we finally received confirmation a couple of weeks ago that the untreated effluent from the recently granted permission for the forthcoming Cambourne West development of 3000 plus dwellings will also be coming our way, despite all enquiries during the previous 3 years hinting that it would be pumped to the Papworth works for treatment and Anglian Water's usual comment "We are obligated to deal with it". Well what do you know??

That leaves us with the question of the Bourne airfield development, which still has to go to outline planning application but is odds on being granted particularly as it is a brownfield site. The documentation shows the number of dwellings will be in the region of 3500 dwellings plus associate buildings, no details have been presented as of yet but I'm afraid I cannot see them pumping all the associate effluent some 2 & 1/2 miles to Papworth when all they would have to do is send it a couple of hundred yards under the airfield road to connect it in with the Cambourne system and then on its way to Uttons Drove.

Given the likelihood that Uttons drove works will quite probably have to take all this effluent from a further 17,000 plus dwellings plus associate facilities, it will need a serious capacity enlargement AND as all the foul water outflow will pass through Swavesey on the way to the river it is essential that all the associated bodies & organisations take heed of the potential foul water flooding possibilities and act PRIOR to any such event.

A little footnote to the above is that Anglian Water, in their infinite wisdom, have just created a precedent by permitting the surface water from some 20% of the Bushmead development site to be pumped into the foul sewage line under the road by the Boxworth End/Ramper Rd junction and that is after raw sewage has risen out of 2 manhole covers in Ramper Rd on at least 2 occasions of flooding situations prior to any SUDS being injected therein. You just couldn't make it up!.

GOOD LUCK SWAVESEY

TIME TO BUILD THE ARK

**"berm" an artificial embankment or ridge often used as a way to control excess water. (Source Wikipedia)*

Ed

Swavesey Parish Council
Website:- www.swavesey.org.uk

Parish Councillors	Telephone	E-mail address
Warren Wright (Chairman)	203172	will.wright48@virginmedia.com
John Pook (Vice-Chairman)	230978	pookjhn@aol.com
Martin Johnston	200605	martin.johnston1@ntlworld.com
Lisa Boyes	232603	windmillkennels@oneservice.co.uk
James Dodson	230560	shirleydodson65@gmail.com
Stuart Faben	07887 906982	stuart@fabenjoinery.com
Hannah Parish	203035	hannah.parish@niab.com
Colin Parsons	230861	colin@trinityengineeringltd.co.uk
Sandie Smith	232356	cambridgegills@hotmail.co.uk
Keith Wilderspin	230083	keith.wilderspin@btinternet.com
Doug Hunt	232478	doughuntuk@yahoo.co.uk
Clerk: Linda Miller	202982	clerk@swavesey.org.uk
District Councillor: Sue Ellington	202923	cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor: Mandy Smith Papworth & Swavesey Ward	230248	mandy.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Memorial Hall Administrator: Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk

Community Grant Fund from Swavesey Parish Council

The Parish Council has grant funding available to help not-for-profit Swavesey clubs, groups and organisations to apply for funding to support the activities of their group, where they may have lost fundraising opportunities this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic leading to the cancellation of community events.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit, village-based groups, for grants of up to £1,000. Grants can be applied for to cover costs including: club administration costs such as insurance premiums or meeting room charges, increased costs associated with social distancing measures or online meetings or project funding towards future club events.

Applications should be made using the Parish Council's Grant Funding Policy and Application form which is available from the website at www.swavesey.org.uk or by application to the Parish Council.

Swavesey Parish Council, The Memorial Hall, High Street,
Swavesey, CB24 4QU

Tel: 01954 202982 Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk

SACRED HEART OF JESUS
Roman-Catholic Parish
19 Needingworth Road, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 5JT

Parish Priest: Rev Thomas J Walton

Tel: 01480 462 192
www.sacredheart-stives.org.uk
email: office@sacredheart-stives.org.uk

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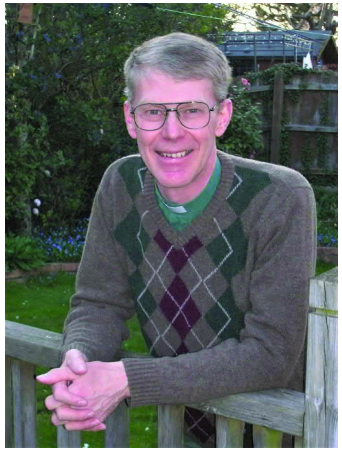
St Andrew's Message from Rev'd Simon Gill



We are in a period of waiting and have been for a while. How quickly will all the aspects of lockdown be lifted? When will we be able to interact normally with each other again? If at the younger end of the spectrum, when will it be our turn for the vaccine?

Waiting is a normal part of life - but often one that we don't like and can make us anxious, tired or simply fed up. None of us are immune to it. I find it interesting and even amusing to see various examples in the Bible of characters we often think of as strong and resilient being quite frustrated in some of their times of waiting and even saying so out loud! So please don't feel that you are an odd one out if any of this applies to you – it's a normal part of human life.

May we encourage each other in our waiting and please remember that all of the churches in the village have ways of being able to talk to each other to help each other - don't be afraid to ask if you need encouragement or help.

God bless,

Simon

Team Rector, St. Andrew's, Swavesey.

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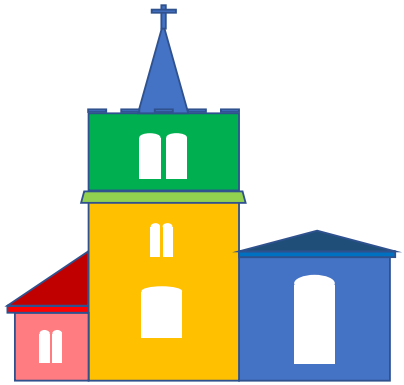


St Andrew's Church Services

Unfortunately, as I write this in February, we are still unable to hold services in St Andrew's. Maybe by the time you read this in April, we might once again be able to welcome you all to services in our lovely church.

Even if we can't gather to celebrate Easter in St Andrew's, there will be opportunities online for us all to worship together. For up-to-date information about our Easter Services, please check our page on the benefice website: www.5folds.org.uk/church/st-andrews-swavesey or look at the notice boards in the graveyard.

For details about our regular online services go to: www.5folds.org.uk/page/online-services-and-resources or check on Facebook.

If you need to pray in church or would like to be prayed for, please contact Nicky Carne: 01954 230971, Jacqui Fuller: 01954 230774, Rev Simon Gill: 01954 230434 or Rev Lucy Cleland: 01954 277758.

BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Due to things changing so often we are still unable to give any advance notice on what is going on at Bethel. Please keep checking our Facebook page and e site for up to date notices.You can now also find us on the Apple and Android App stores - search Bethel Baptist Church Swavesey.

CONTACT US

In times of uncertainty we want you to know that you can count on God, and by extension us as a church. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stacey Alsop (Admin) - admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

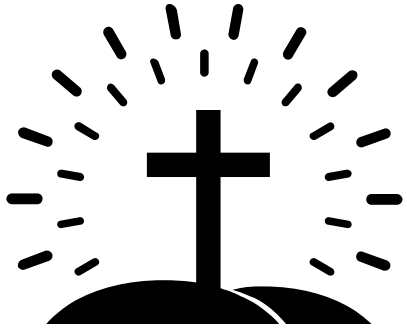
John Porter (Secretary) - secretary@bethe baptistchurch.org.uk

Wendy Whistler (Treasurer) treasurer@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

Marianne Holt (Youthworker) - marianne@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

Wendy Snead (Pastoral Care) - pastoralcare@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.co.uk/SwaveseyBethel *www.bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk*
www.youtube.com/SwaveseyBethel



Community Groups & Charities

Swavesey Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	A voluntary group who meet on the first Monday each month to set out the vision for Swavesey and the planning policies needed to manage development according to the wishes of the local community. See http:// www.swavesey.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/ or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk for more information
Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:- www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, e-mail enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk or check the website cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919). care-network.org.uk/
Community First Responder Scheme	The local group in Over and Swavesey has provided help over many hours and attended over 20 patients in your community. You can support the group and help to fundraise for equipment or volunteer to become a Community First Responder within your community. Contact:- responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk or call 01284 731802
Swavesey Library	A volunteer run community library based in Swavesey Village College. We are able to providing a full range of library facilities being directly linked to the Cambridgeshire County Council library service. For more info see:- www.swavesey.org.uk/village-link/swavesey-library
The Friends of the Rosie Hospital	The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. Contact:- Mrs Mary Sanders (Hon Chair) rosieinstitches@ukonline.co.uk Tel 01223 356615
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815 134, email clare.bates@each.org.uk
Community Resourcing	We have a small group of local volunteers (local residents from our community) who would like to help other members of our community with any practical tasks. Contact:- Parish Council Tel: 01954 202982 or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by DBS checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver

CLUB INFORMATION

<table>
<tr><td>Army Cadet Force</td><td>Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. Contact - Sgt Phill Barrett phone 07786981380</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over District Girlguiding
Swavesey and Over</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Unit</td><td>Evening</td><td>Contact</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Rainbows</td><td>Thurs</td><td>caroline@overroad.co.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Brownies</td><td>Mon</td><td>swaveseyeagleowl@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Guides</td><td>Thurs</td><td>swaveseyguides@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Rainbows</td><td>Mon</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Rangers</td><td>Thurs</td><td>seniorsectionoverdistrict@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Brownies</td><td>Wed</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Guides</td><td>Tue</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Spartans</td><td>Swavesey Spartans are a Chartered Standard Youth Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club runs boys and girls teams from under 6 through to under 17.
For information and enquiries please contact
Chairman - Gary Peet on 07976 359494
Secretary - Colin Baker on 07976 636771
Club Welfare Officer - Carolyn Merricks on 01954 20497</td></tr>
<tr><td>1st Swavesey Scout Group</td><td>All sections meet at the Scout Hut on the SVC site.
Cubs
Day: Tuesday. Time: 18:00 to 19:15
Contact: Steven Wilson - Cub Leader
Email: steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Scouts
Day: Monday. Time: 19:00 to 20:30
Contact: Jim Burling - Group Scout Leader
Email: jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
For any other Scouting enquiries
Email: info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre</td><td>Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre are based in their own purpose-built unit on the primary school site. It comprises Early Years children (aged 2 – 4 years) between 9am and 3pm (formerly Swavesey Pre School) and we provide activities and care for primary school aged children before and after school. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 am to 9am and After School Club from 3.15pm to 6pm. For information please contact Carol Panther (Early Years and Playwork Manager) by email: eyandp@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk or by phone 01954 273312 or 07803 812221.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Music School</td><td>Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College. Only £3.00 per session. For further details see:
www.swaveseymusic.co.uk/</td></tr>
</table>

Health and Wellbeing Club	A club for older adults which runs on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. The group meets at the Community Centre, Thistle Green, Swavesey from 10.00 to 11.30am. Refreshments, chair-based exercises, speakers and time for conversation. No booking is required and the group is Free.
British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Swavesey Tang Soo Do have classes on a Monday and Wednesday in the primary school main hall. Beginners and junior grades are 6pm-7pm and senior grades 7pm-8:15pm. The contact details are Mr and Mrs Morton 07919 050261 and enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk. The website is www.swaveseytsd.co.uk
Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Russell Fear on 01954 202846.
British Legion	For information contact:- Secretary - Angela Dye. 01954 277453. email: dyeangela0@gmail.com
Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre.The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams.Contact Helen Taylor on 01954 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net website: www.swaveseybadminton.net
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113) Email graham.waites566@btinternet.com
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring Simon Shore 01954 230848
Swavesey Squash Club	Swavesey Squash Club has three international standard squash courts, in our recently refurbished clubhouse, on the Swavesey Village College site. The club has a number of weekly sessions running, suitable for beginners, improvers, and more advanced players. Unlimited use of the facility from £17 a month. A welcoming and active community club with social events and opportunities for competition. Visit our website for more details or contact Ali Loke on 07776 176866/ali@alilokesquash.com. www.swaveseysquash.com

Over Netball Club	We train on a Tuesday night 7pm till 8.30pm on the outdoor courts at Swavesey Village College. Small friendly club, play in CDNL local league, beginners/ everyone welcome. Cost £3 per session. Contact is Lindsay Foster - lindsayfoster001@gmail.com 01954 202070 or 07543 460725
Compass Cafe	Meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 until 12.00 at Bethel Baptist Church. Contact Sue Ellington on 01954 202923 or sue.ellington@virgin.net
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in St. Cecilia's Hall at SVC, from 7.30pm - 9pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Chrissie Richardson 07881 824095.Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Global Resources Centre, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Institute Football Club	New players always welcome, please contact: Phil Baines on 01954 200377 [Saturday sides] or Jerry Ladell on (01954) 201018 [Veterans side].
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Church 9-30 to 11-30 am. Beginners always welcome. Contact Deborah Walker 01954231382 Email: deborahwalker105@talktalk.net
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Meet at Bethel Baptist Church, Middlewatch Swavesey CB24 4RP commencing at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated. If you need a lift: PHONE: Trevor Grange - 01954 230119 or Pat Miles - 01954 780485. Guests Are Always Welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Club night 1 October to 1 April is on Monday, 7.00 to 9.00pm. From 1 April - 30 September there will be club nights on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We welcome new members from anywhere in the locality. Further information from s.taylor996@btinternet.com www.swaveseyandovertennisclub.btck.co.uk
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year.New members always welcome.Contact: Nathalie Balzano: nathaliewoodward@hotmail.com Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk
Swavesey Speakers	Develop your public speaking skills at this Toastmasters International club. Guests welcome! 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9pm (occasional venue change). More details: www.swaveseyspeakers.toastmastersclubs.org or call/text Faye on 07908 443610.
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Linda Saunders (01954) 201162

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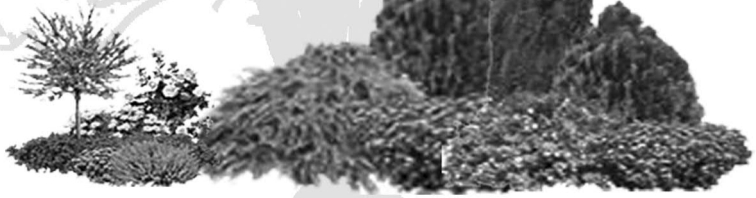

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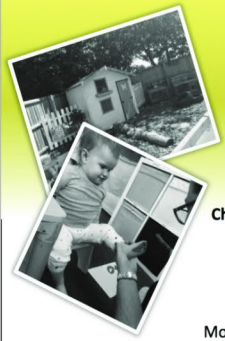

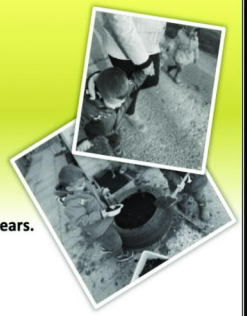

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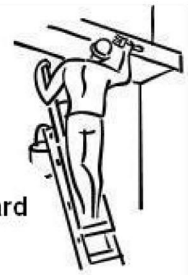

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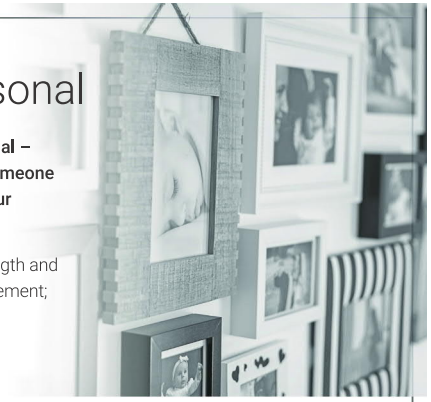

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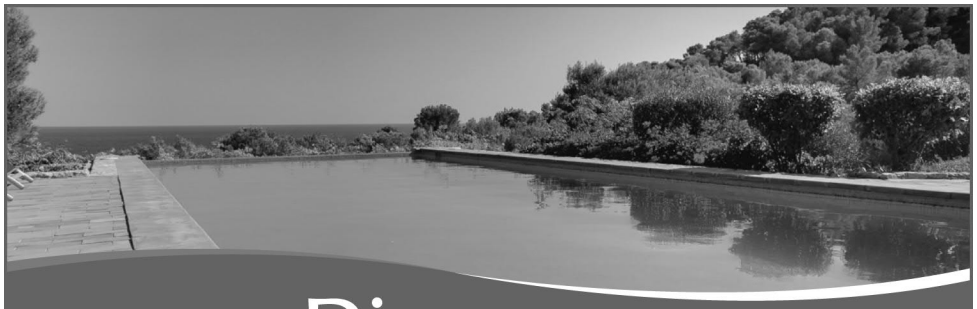

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NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR EVENTS

Please use this form to notify us of any major events you are organising so that we can publish the dates in the magazine and on the website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk It is hoped this will avoid major events clashing on the same day. Please send to the Editor, 14 Black Horse Lane, Swavesey.

Event _____

Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or somebody that you know by announcing it in this magazine, please fill in the form below.

Also supply your name and contact details, and return to the Editor by the copy date. We will endeavour to include it in our next issue.

SHORT MESSAGE:

_____

_____

_____

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